

2016 Air Quality Management Plan

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is responsible for clean air planning in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin), an area that includes Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. While air quality has dramatically improved over the years, the Basin still exceeds federal public health standards for both ozone and particulate matter (PM) and experiences some of the worst air pollution in the nation.

The federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires areas that are not attaining National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to develop and implement an emission reduction strategy that will bring the area into attainment in a timely manner. This strategy and the underlying technical analyses are integrated into Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs) for the region. The SCAQMD, with contributions from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), has developed four AQMPs since the late 1990's to address updates to air quality standards and attainment deadlines.

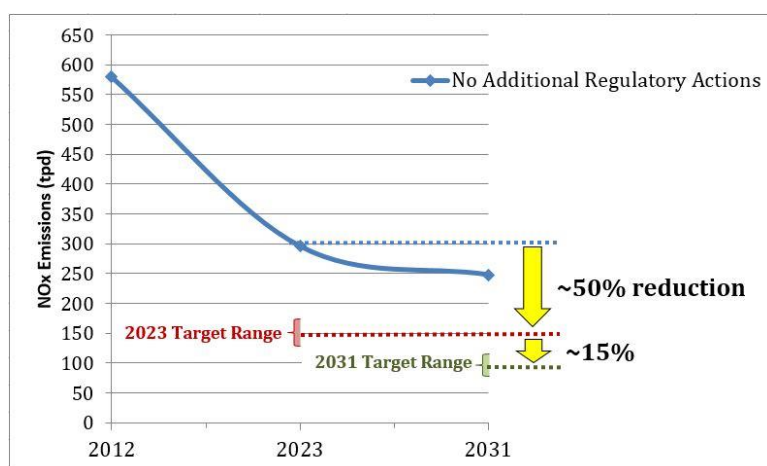
The upcoming 2016 AQMP will develop integrated strategies and measures to meet the following NAAQS:

- ❑ 8-hour Ozone (75 ppb) by 2032
- ❑ Annual PM_{2.5} (12 µg/m³) by 2021-2025
- ❑ 8-hour Ozone (80 ppb) by 2024 (*updated from the 2007 and 2012 AQMPs*)
- ❑ 1-hour Ozone (120 ppb) by 2023 (*updated from the 2012 AQMP*)
- ❑ 24-hour PM_{2.5} (35 µg/m³) by 2019 (*updated from the 2012 AQMP*)

The 2016 AQMP will also take an initial look at the new 2015 federal 8-hour ozone standard (70 ppb), as well as incorporate energy, climate, transportation, goods movement, infrastructure and other planning efforts that affect future air quality.

Key Challenges

Given the urgent need for significant emissions reductions in a short timeframe, the 2016 AQMP will include swift actions to ensure that rapidly approaching attainment deadlines are met, that the public health is protected to the maximum extent feasible, and that the region is not faced with economically onerous sanctions if the NAAQS are not met. As with every AQMP, a comprehensive analysis of emissions, meteorology, atmospheric chemistry, regional growth projections, and the impact of existing control measures is updated with the latest data and methods. The result is targeted level of emissions in the Basin that would allow attainment of the NAAQS. The most significant air quality challenge in the Basin is to reduce oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) emissions sufficiently to meet the upcoming ozone standard deadlines. Based on preliminary analyses, the approximately 580* tons per day (tpd) of total Basin NO_x emissions are projected to drop to *approximately* 300* tpd and 250* tpd in the attainment years of 2023 and 2031 respectively, due to continued implementation of already adopted control measures.



However, in the absence of additional action, these emissions reductions are not sufficient to meet the ozone standards. Preliminary analysis suggests that total Basin emissions of NO_x must be reduced to approximately 150* tpd in 2023 and 100* tpd in 2031 to attain the ozone standards. This represents an additional **50%* reduction in NO_x by 2023**, and an additional **15%* NO_x reduction beyond 2023 levels by 2031**.

The primary challenge is that mobile sources currently contribute about 88% of the region's total NO_x emissions, and SCAQMD has limited authority to regulate mobile sources. SCAQMD is working closely with the California Air Resources Board and U.S. EPA, which have primary authority over mobile sources to ensure mobile sources do their fair share of pollution reduction.

Since NO_x emissions also lead to the formation of PM_{2.5}, the NO_x reductions needed to meet the ozone standards will lead to significant improvements in PM_{2.5} levels. The 2016 AQMP will include PM_{2.5} control strategies as needed to ensure that the PM_{2.5} NAAQS will also be met on time.

Plan Objectives

To ensure air quality goals will be met while minimizing impacts to the regional economy, the following policy objectives will guide the development of the plan:

- ☐ Eliminate reliance on “black box” (*future technologies*) to the maximum extent possible by providing specific pathways to attainment with specific control measures
- ☐ Calculate and take credit for co-benefits from other planning efforts (e.g., GHG reduction targets, energy efficiency, transportation)
- ☐ Develop a strategy with fair-share emission reductions at the federal, state, & local levels such as a new federal engine emission standards and/or additional authority provided to the state or SCAQMD for mobile sources
- ☐ Seek significant funding for incentives to implement early deployment and commercialization of known zero and near-zero technologies.
- ☐ Invest in strategies and technologies meeting multiple objectives regarding air quality, climate change, air toxic exposure, energy, and transportation
- ☐ Enhance the socioeconomic analysis and select the most efficient and cost-effective path to achieve multi-pollutant and multi-deadline targets
- ☐ Prioritize non-regulatory, innovative and “win-win” approaches for emission reductions

Public Participation

The SCAQMD is conducting an extensive outreach program to disseminate information and receive feedback on the 2016 AQMP, and there are many ways to participate in the Plan development process. The AQMP Advisory Group (<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/about/groups-committees/aqmp-advisory-group>), comprised businesses, environmental groups, local governments and academia, meets periodically with all meetings are open to the public. Also, ten topical White Papers have been prepared with stakeholder input (<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/about/groups-committees/aqmp-advisory-group/2016-aqmp-white-papers>) that will help provide a policy framework as the 2016 AQMP is developed. Comments, suggestions or inquires regarding the 2016 AQMP can be made via email (aqmp@aqmd.gov).

Schedule

- Winter 2015/Spring 2016 – draft AQMP development
- Spring 2016- release draft AQMP, draft Environmental Impact Report, and Socioeconomic Report
- Spring 2016 -- conduct Public Workshops, Hearings and continue outreach
- Spring 2016 -- SCAQMD Governing Board considers adoption of the 2016 AQMP
- Spring 2016 -- CARB action on SCAQMD State Implementation Plan
- Summer 2016 – Plan submittal to EPA

For more information regarding 2016 AQMP development, please contact Michael Krause at mkrause@aqmd.gov or 909.396.2706

